

Message Text

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11
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 /102 W

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P R 270858Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9723

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7758

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KN

SUBJECT: DPRK DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES

BEGIN SUMMARY: SINCE 8/18 INCIDENT, NORTH KOREAN (NK) SPECIAL
DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS ABROAD APPEAR TO HAVE REDUCED, THOUGH NOT
ENTIRELY STOPPED. ROK MOFA OFFICIAL NAMED LATIN AMERICA AND PARIS
AS TWO AREAS ON WHICH NK NOW CONCENTRATING ITS DIPLOMATIC
ACTIVITIES. END SUMMARY.

1. ON SEPTEMBER 24, EMBOFF CALLED ON KIM CHAE-YONG, CHIEF,
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SECOND INFORMATION DIVISION, MOFA, TO DISCUSS REPORTS THAT NORTH

KOREA HAD NOT SENT DELEGATION TO INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU) MEETING IN MADRID WHICH OPENED SEPTEMBER 23. KIM CONFIRMED THAT THIS WAS FIRST TIME SINCE JOINING IPU IN 1973 THAT NK HAS NOT SENT DELEGATION TO IPU MEETING. KIM ADDED BACKGROUND INFORMATION THAT SPEAKER FOR NK SUPREME PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY HAD GONE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION OF IPU IN MEXICO CITY IN MAY 1976 AND HAD SAID NK DELEGATION WOULD ATTEND MADRID MEETING, BUT NK HAD NOT FOLLOWED UP WITH LISTS OF DELEGATION. THEN, JUST ONE DAY BEFORE MEETING DUE TO BEGIN, ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR IN MADRID INFORMED IPU THAT NK'S WOULD NOT COME.

2. NK ALSO HAS FAILED TO SEND DELEGATION TO MEETING OF IAEA WHICH BEGAN IN RIO DE JANEIRO ON SEPTEMBER 22. THIS ALSO IS FIRST SUCH INSTANCE OF NON-ATTENDANCE.

3. KIM SAID THAT HE WAS WATCHING TO SEE WHETHER NK'S WILL ATTEND ITU (INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION) MEETING STARTING SEPTEMBER 26 OR UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE TO CONVENE IN NAIROBI, KENYA, ON OCTOBER 26.

4. KIM POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD BE FALSE TO CLAIM THAT NK HAS SENT NO DELEGATIONS ABROAD SINCE 8/18 PANMUNJOM INCIDENT. YI TAE-PAEK, VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE LEFT ON SEPTEMBER 13 FOR "CONFERENCE ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES" IN MEXICO CITY, SEPTEMBER 19-22.

5. IN ADDITION, EMBASSY NOTES REPORT FROM RADIO PYONGYANG (OW 221713Y) THAT NK GOVERNMENT TRADE DELEGATION HEADED BY KYE UNG-TAE, MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE, LEFT PYONGYANG ON SEPTEMBER 21 BY AIR FOR POLAND.

6. MORE GENERALLY, KIM SAID HE BELIEVED THAT NK'S INTEND TO CONCENTRATE THEIR DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS ON LATIN AMERICA, IN PREFERENCE TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT THERE ARE TWO OR THREE NK "NEWSMEN" TRAVELLING IN SOUTH AMERICA NOW. THEY HAVE VISITED GUYANA, WHERE THEY HELD A PHOTO EXHIBIT, AND PANAMA.

7. KIM ALSO RELATED THAT NK'S HAD RECENTLY SENT TWO DIPLOMATS TO PARIS TO DISCUSS SETTING UP NK UNESCO MISSION THERE. THEY INFORMED UNESCO HEADQUARTERS THAT THEY INTENDED TO BRING

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IN 30 MISSION MEMBERS. (UNESCO POINTED OUT THAT EVEN SOVIETS, WITH LARGEST MISSION, HAVE ONLY 20 MEMBERS. THIS OBSERVATION APPARENTLY DID NOT CHANGE NK INTENTIONS.) NK TRADE MISSION IN PARIS HAS ANOTHER 12 MEMBERS. KIM COMMENTED THAT NK'S SEEMED TO WANT TO MAKE PARIS THEIR EUROPEAN HEADQUARTERS. HE ASKED WHETHER U.S. COULD TALK TO FRENCH AND PERSUADE THEM TO HAVE UNESCO BRING PRESSURE ON NK'S TO REDUCE SIZE OF THEIR PROPOSED UNESCO MISSION.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ASSESSMENT DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN NK DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY NOTED ABOVE, AT THE UN, AND ANYWHERE ELSE THERE MAY HAVE BEEN CHANGES IN PAST PATTERNS. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY COMMENT WE CAN CONVEY TO MOFA ON PARA 7 REQUEST.
STERN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLICIES, GOODWILL VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SEOUL07758
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760363-1129
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760916/aaaaanmi.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DPRK DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES BEGIN SUMMARY: SINCE 8/18 INCIDENT, NORTH KOREAN (NK) SPECIAL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS ABROAD APPEAR TO HAVE REDUCED
TAGS: PFOR, KN, IPU, (KIM CHAE-YONG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006